

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:MWWILEY

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P 062312Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

INFO USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CHUSLOT TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 132980

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MASS, TS

SUBJECT:U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA

REFS: A. TUNIS 3379 B. CHUSLOT 051534Z JUN 75

C. STATE 085870

1. AS DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR AND CHUSLOT DURING RECENT WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS, DEPARTMENT AND DOD BELIEVE THERE MAY BE BETTER ALTERNATIVE TO SALE OF HAWK SYSTEM TO GOT ON CASH OR CREDIT BASIS.

2. AS NOTED REF C, WE WOULD PREFER DEFLECT GOT INTEREST IN HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED AND COSTLY ITEM SUCH AS HAWK, PARTICULARLY WHEN LESS EXPENSIVE AND LESS TECHNICALLY DIFFICULT SYSTEMS AVAILABLE, E.G., CHAPARRAL PLUS VULCAN, WHICH WE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER ON CASH BASIS ONLY. HAWK SYSTEM NOT PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES FOR THIS
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REASON AND RECENT MOROCCAN INTEREST DEFLECTED TO CHAPARRAL.

3. ESTIMATED COST OF NINE BATTERIES OF HAWK IS ABOUT \$225 MILLION; COST OF TRAINING WOULD DEPEND ON SITE SURVEY BUT

ROUGH BALL PARK ESTIMATE WOULD BE ABOUT \$45 MILLION. WE
WOULD HOPE, THEREFORE, COUNTRY TEAM WOULD BE ABLE TO
DEFLECT INTEREST TO OTHER ITEMS IN SHOPPING LIST.

4. SINCE THE HAWK SYSTEM AND THE CHAPARRAL-VULCAN SYSTEM
ARE DESIGNED TO ACCOMPLISH QUITE DIFFERENT TACTICAL
MISSIONS, DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMA-
TION THE EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE AS TO HOW THE TUNISIANS
THEMSELVES VIEW THEIR TACTICAL REQUIREMENTS IN GROUND TO
AIR MISSILE DEFENSE. KISSINGER

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